

PSYC 1101 – 07: Introduction to Psychology

Spring 2016 (January 11th – May 6th)

Contact Information

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Office Hours: Mondays 11:00am – 12:00pm, Wednesdays 11:00am – 12:30pm, & by appointment

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Course Description

This online course surveys the science of psychology, including introductions to research methods, psychobiological processes, basic psychological processes, development of the self, social psychology, and psychological problems, disorders, and treatment. The basis for all other psychology courses will be covered during this class since it will provide you with a broad introduction to the many topics in psychology. Diversity issues will also be discussed in this course as well as the importance of cultural understanding in relation to psychology. You will become familiarized with the various sub-areas of psychology.

Course Objectives, Outcomes, and Assessment

The objectives of this course are to familiarize you with the basic theories and ideas that relate to each discipline in psychology. You will gain a general knowledge of research methods and the terminology used in psychology. The main goal of this course is to help you better understand psychology as well as be an informed consumer of psychological information. Specific course objectives are as follows:

- ψ *Goal/Objective #1*: Students will obtain an understanding of the basic principles, concepts, and theories that comprise the discipline of psychology.
 - *Outcome reflecting this objective*:
 - Students will be able to discuss and evaluate presented principles, concepts, and theories.
 - *Assignments that demonstrate accomplishment of these outcomes*:
 - Activities, discussion forum posts, and questions on quizzes and exams.
- ψ *Goal/Objective #2*: Students will develop an appreciation for psychology as a scientific discipline.
 - *Outcomes reflecting this objective*:
 - Students will be able to identify the scientific method.
 - Students will evaluate presented concepts and theories along scientific standards.
 - Students will be able to apply research in psychology.
 - *Assignments that demonstrate accomplishment of these outcome*:
 - Discussion forum posts and questions on quizzes and exams.
 - Participation in research studies within the Psychology department or through critically evaluating primary source material.
- ψ *Goal/Objective #3*: Students will acquire the ability to think critically.
 - *Outcomes reflecting this goal/objective*:
 - Learn how to evaluate psychological research and concepts.
 - *Assignments that demonstrate accomplishment of this outcome*:
 - Activities, discussion forum posts, and questions on quizzes and exams.
 - Critically evaluation of primary source material.

Required Textbook

Hockenberry, D.H., Nolan, S.A., & Hockenberry, S.E. (2015). *Psychology* (Custom ISU; 7th Edition). Macmillan Publishers. (ISBN: 9781319041946)

Course Format

An online platform (Moodle) will be utilized to disseminate information, which may take the form of PowerPoint presentations, audio/visual lectures, discussion forums, activities, quizzes, and exams. I will open each week on Monday at 7:00am MST and close each on the proceeding Sunday at 11:55pm MST.

Course Pace

Due to the online nature of this course, you will have some flexibility regarding when you download/view lecture and course materials; however, you are required to maintain pace with the course as outlined in the course schedule. Moreover, you are responsible for keeping up on course announcements, particularly with regards to the timing of activities and quizzes. Because of this, you should check the Moodle course page several times each week for discussions, activities, required readings, quizzes, announcements, etc. If you complete the scheduled requirements (e.g., activities, quizzes, etc.) early in the week, I strongly encourage you to still check the discussion forums during the remainder of the week. To this end, the responsibility falls onto you for any missed course elements (e.g., assignments, quizzes, etc.).

Course Communication

Announcements, feedback, and/or notes from me will be posted on Moodle and automatically sent via email. Be sure to check the Moodle Course page and student email regularly. You may contact me via email and/or the communication tools on Moodle, and are always welcome to stop by during office hours. I will try to answer all communication as quickly as possible, however due to the number of students, I cannot guarantee an immediate response. If you have not received a response within 48 hours, please resend the message.

Questions/Inquiries

If you have a question about an assignment, lecture, material in the textbook, or anything else relevant to this course, do not hesitate to contact me. Email, using either the Moodle quick mail function or your personal email account, is the best method of contact. If you prefer, feel free to stop by during my office hours as those times are dedicated to this course. Or, feel free to contact me to schedule an in-person or phone meeting. Don't be shy! I'd enjoy talking with you.

Stay Motivated by Staying Ahead

It's tempting to procrastinate, especially in an online class featuring open book quizzes. However, doing so will come back to haunt you; the quizzes and exams are timed and your performance will likely suffer if you try to read the chapter for the first time during the quiz. Lectures are available at the beginning of the week. View the lectures and get your reading done as early in the week as possible so you have time for a review before quizzes and exams.

Course Requirements

There are reading, discussion forum, activity, research paper, quiz, and exam requirements in this course, and you are expected to complete all of these. **There is a total of 526 points available.**

Readings

You are expected to read ALL of the required readings for a particular week before completing the accompanying course requirements (i.e., discussion, activity, quiz).

Textbook

The textbook (listed above) is available through the Idaho State University bookstore. *Yes, the edition listed is required for successful completion of this course!* Because of the online nature of this course

and our relatively limited interaction through virtual means, having access to and reading the textbook is **crucial** to your success in this course.

Course elements (i.e., lecture materials, activities, and exam questions) will be derived primarily from this text. It is **required** for this course and you will be best served by having direct access to your own copy. To this point, you must have the textbook at the beginning of the class in order to successfully complete the course. This being said, *there will be no extension of deadlines due to textbooks not arriving on time!*

Additional Readings

Additional readings outside of the required textbook, such as journal articles, may be assigned throughout this course. PDF copies of these readings will be made available on Moodle with all other scheduled material for each week.

Forum Participation (100 points)

The ability to communicate with, learn from, and interact with your peers and/or instructor (i.e. manager/leader/boss in the professional world) is an important skill necessary for success in your academic and, later on, professional endeavors. One such platform that is being utilized more often is online discussion forums. As such, the discussion forums are a key element in this course.

Here's how the discussion forums work: I present a topic or a question for which you formulate an initial response. These initial posts should demonstrate thought and insight into the assigned topics, and include any real world experiences you wish to share. You will then provide responses to at least two of your colleagues (i.e., classmates); however, posting more than two responses for each forum is *strongly* encouraged! These follow-up posts should be substantive and contribute to the conversation. You can do this by asking questions, respectfully debating positions, and/or presenting supporting information relevant to the topic. A minimum of three posts are due per forum, with initial responses due Wednesday at 11:55pm MST, and all follow-up posts due Sunday at 11:55pm MST of the given week.

Use these discussion forums to demonstrate that you have read the materials. Pose *relevant questions* and make *informed statements* that are reflective of what you have learned from reading and viewing the material for the forums. Frankly, along with preparing for quizzes and exams, moving discussion forums forward is the easiest route to earning a high grade in this course.

Quizzes and Exams

There are fifteen open book quizzes (one per chapter covered in this course), which are designed to supplement the readings, test whether or not you have watched the video lectures, and assess your knowledge of certain concepts to be learned in this course. The two lowest quiz score will be dropped, meaning only thirteen quizzes will count toward your grade. Additionally, there will be three exams that include questions from each chapter. Unlike the chapter quizzes, the exams are NOT open book.

Open book Chapter Quizzes (100 points)

There is an open book quiz for each chapter; fifteen quizzes total (generally one per week). These open book quizzes will greatly facilitate your performance on the three exams. You could easily view them as “mini practice exams.” You are allowed one attempt for each quiz. It is strongly recommended that you read the material before taking the quiz since only one attempt is allowed per quiz. If you have read through the material and understand the main points, you should know where to turn to in the book to confirm your answer selection. Again, you have only one opportunity to take each quiz so be sure that you are using a reliable connection to the Internet. If your computer crashes during the quiz, you will not

be allowed to take it again. In anticipation that problems such as computer crashes do occur, the two lowest quiz scores will be dropped.

Exams (300 points)

There will be 3 online exams. You will have from 7:00am on Wednesday to 11:55pm on Sunday to take the exam. Once opened, you will have 90 minutes to complete the exam. *Do NOT open the exam until you are prepared to take it.* You do NOT have the option to open the exam and then close it until a future time. Notes, text, or other materials should NOT be used when taking the exams. Exams can cover material from class lectures, discussions, and text/readings.

Given that this is an online course in which there is an extended period in which course elements can be completed, there will be no make-up quizzes or exams unless there is an extenuating circumstance (e.g., family emergency) that precludes your ability to take the exam during the *entire* time period. In this case, you need to inform me ASAP and provide the proper documentation. Please note that make-up exams will likely differ from the exam given in the scheduled timeframe.

Ultimately, I want you to master all the material presented in this course. However, because of time constraints, it is not feasible to test you on all the material. Thus, quizzes and the final exam will only cover a subset of the material you are to master. To this point, you need to be prepared for any question related to the material covered. I strongly suggest you do this by using class notes as your study guide for reviewing on a regular basis. If you do this, you will essentially be studying continuously between exams, which is how students achieve mastery of the material and earn quality marks in their courses.

Departmental Research Requirement (25 points)

All students in Introduction to Psychology (PSYC 1101) are required by the department to have a direct experience with psychological research. This research experience is *mandatory*, however, you can choose how this requirement is fulfilled – participating in research or writing summaries of empirical research articles. *Students who do not complete the research requirement will receive an “F” for their final grade, regardless of the points earned in the course.*

Research Participation

One option to earn points is through direct participation in research. For each unit of research participation (1 unit = 30 minutes or part thereof), you receive 5 points toward the required 25 points. Directions on how to complete the research requirement through interacting in psychological research is provided in the beginning of your textbook as well as on the Department of Psychology website:

http://www.isu.edu/psych/research_participation.shtml

To participate, you must enroll in research studies through a research website called “SONA.” To sign up for an account, go to <http://isu.sona-systems.com> and click on “Request an account here”, which is in the lower left-hand corner under “New Participant?” Enter your information in the boxes and be sure to choose “PSYC 1101-07” in the “Course” box. An email will be sent to you with your password. Enter your User ID and password to view available studies and to sign up for studies. Be sure to write down the time and place of the research project and show up on time for the scheduled appointment. If you do not show up at the time you signed up for, you will receive an unexcused no-show. After 3 unexcused no-shows, you will no longer be allowed to sign up for research. As an incentive for showing up on time, if you participate in 4 units without having any unexcused no-shows, you will be given a 5th unit when final grades are calculated. This incentive will not show up in the SONA system and will be manually adjusted in Moodle at the end of the semester.

Alternative to Research Participation

If you do not wish to participate in psychological research, the alternative assignment is to read and summarize empirical psychological journal articles (options to choose from are posted on Moodle). Each article summary is worth up to 3 units of research participation, or up to 15 points.

To write a journal article summary, first read a journal article that is posted on Moodle under “Journal Articles for Summary”. Then, in your own words, write a summary of the article that is single-spaced, Times New Roman, 12-point font, and 1-2 pages in length. To get full credit, describe the purpose or goal of the article, give a brief description of the method and results, describe the authors’ conclusions, and discuss your reaction to the article (do you agree with the authors, do you think the article was interesting or useful, what other questions should be asked based on the findings or conclusions?), write clearly and use correct spelling and grammar. Article summaries must be well written and address all of the guidelines and questions above thoroughly to receive full points.

Participation Deadline

The deadline for completing the research requirement is 5pm, Friday April 22, 2016. This applies to research participation and article summaries. NOTE: The deadline is two weeks before the end of the semester. *Please plan accordingly.* Also, note that you must activate your SONA account before you can sign up for experiments. It may take a few days to activate your account, hence, it would be wise not to procrastinate.

Students who are retaking the course may not use research credits earned during a prior semester to satisfy this requirement. You can complete any combination of research participation and article summaries to accrue the required 25 points (e.g., 5 units of research; 4 units of research and 1 article summary; 3 units of research and 1 article summary; 2 article summaries).

Grading Scale

The traditional +/- letter grade structure will be utilized for this course (i.e., B+ = 87-89%, B = 83-86%, B- = 80-82%).

Grade Calculation

<i>Course Elements</i>	<i>Points</i>
Syllabus and Academic Honesty Agreement	1
Discussion Forums (6)	100
Chapter Quizzes (15 - drop lowest 2)	100
Exams (3)	300
Research Participation (5 units)	25
<i>Total</i>	<i>526</i>

Technology Notes

Moodle is most compatible with Firefox (a free download); using other browsers could impact your ability to submit course materials. To see if you have compatible software for using Moodle resources, and for instructions to disable popups from Moodle, go to the class Moodle website at <http://elearning.isu.edu> and go to the “Technology aids” resource, click on “Moodle Software Requirements, Viewers, and Plugins” to see a list of recommended software. For technical assistance in person, you can visit the Help Desk in the Rendezvous computer lab. Alternatively, you can call (208) 282-HELP (4357) for help over the phone, or email help@isu.edu.

ADA Accommodations

Idaho State University is committed to equal opportunity in education for all students, including those with documented disabilities. If you have a diagnosed disability or if you believe that you have a disability that might require reasonable accommodation in this course, please contact Disability Services:

Room 125, Rendezvous Complex

Phone: (208) 282-3599

Email: disabilityservices@isu.edu

Webpage: <http://www.isu.edu/ada4isu/>

University policy states that it is the responsibility of students to contact instructors during the first week of each semester to discuss appropriate accommodations to ensure equality in grading, experiences, and assignments.

Academic Integrity

Academic integrity is expected of all students. Academic dishonesty WILL NOT be tolerated, and includes, but is not limited to, cheating and plagiarism. The ISU Student Handbook defines cheating as: “using or attempting to use materials, information, or study aids that are not permitted by the instructor in examinations or other academic work”, and defines plagiarism as: “representing another person's words, ideas, data, or work as one's own. Plagiarism includes, but is not limited to, the exact duplication of another's work and the incorporation of a substantial or essential portion thereof without appropriate citation.” PLEASE NOTE: any dishonesty in completing the course requirements will result in the maximum punishment allowable by the university, including, but not limited to, failure of this course. Please see the student handbook for information regarding your rights and responsibilities as a student.

Need Help?

If you are in need of extra help because you are having trouble with the material and/or you are falling behind, please contact me immediately about the problem so that best way to resolve it may be determined. I am available to meet with you during office hours and by appointment. Also, free tutoring is available through the Center for Teaching & Learning. Visit the website to find out more information about how to obtain tutoring for this class: <http://www.isu.edu/ctl/cat/>

Course Schedule

I reserve the right to make changes to the course schedule; however, the exam dates will NEVER be changed to an earlier date. Students will be notified of such changes via Moodle.

Noteworthy Dates

January 25, 2016 – Last day to register or add/drop this course

March 18, 2015 – Last day to withdraw from this course

Syllabus and Academic Honesty Agreement

To show that you have read the syllabus and you understand the academic honesty policy, it is required that you complete the syllabus and academic honesty agreement found on Moodle. You must agree to the terms before you are allowed to complete any other course materials. The agreement is due by Thursday January 14, 2016. PLEASE NOTE: you will not be allowed to access any audio lectures, discussion boards, or quizzes until this requirement has been completed.

Tentative Course Schedule & Reading Assignments

PSYC 1101-07 Spring 2016 Schedule

This schedule is tentative and is subject to change. *Additional assignments and readings may be announced.*
PLEASE NOTE: All deliverables are due at 11:55pm MST.

Week	Topics	Deliverable
<i>Week 1</i> <i>(opens 1/11)</i>	Welcome & Introduction	Syllabus and Academic Honesty Agreement Chapter 1 Quiz Forum I
<i>Week 2</i> <i>(opens 1/18)</i>	Neuroscience & Behavior	Chapter 2 Quiz
<i>Week 3</i> <i>(opens 1/25)</i>	Sensation & Perception	Chapter 3 Quiz Forum II
<i>Week 4</i> <i>(opens 2/1)</i>	Consciousness & Its Variations	Chapter 4 Quiz
<i>Week 5</i> <i>(opens 2/8)</i>	Learning	Chapter 5 Quiz Exam 1 (Chapters 1-5)
<i>Week 6</i> <i>(opens 2/15)</i>	Memory	Chapter 6 Quiz
<i>Week 7</i> <i>(opens 2/22)</i>	Thinking, Language, & Intelligence	Chapter 7 Quiz Forum III
<i>Week 8</i> <i>(opens 2/29)</i>	Motivation & Emotion	Chapter 8 Quiz
<i>Week 9</i> <i>(opens 3/7)</i>	Lifespan Development	Chapter 9 Quiz Forum IV
<i>Week 10</i> <i>(opens 3/14)</i>	Gender & Sexuality	Chapter 10 Quiz Exam 2 (Chapters 6-10)
<i>Week 11</i> <i>(opens 3/21)</i>	Spring Break: Nothing Due	Rest & Relaxation
<i>Week 12</i> <i>(opens 3/28)</i>	Personality	Chapter 11 Quiz
<i>Week 13</i> <i>(opens 4/4)</i>	Social	Chapter 12 Quiz Forum V
<i>Week 14</i> <i>(opens 4/11)</i>	Stress, Health, & Coping	Chapter 13 Quiz
<i>Week 14</i> <i>(opens 4/18)</i>	Disorders Therapies	Chapter 14 Quiz Chapter 15 Quiz Forum VI
<i>Week 16</i> <i>(opens 4/25)</i>	Closed Week	Study for Finals!
<i>Week 17</i> <i>(opens 5/2)</i>	Finals week	Exam 3 (Chapters 11-15)

FINALS